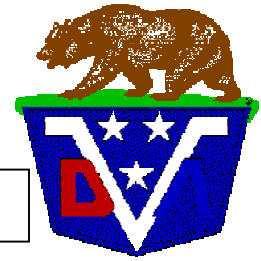


California Department of Veterans Affairs

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
K. Maurice Johannessen, Secretary



CAL-VET LOANS – VETERANS HOMES – VETERANS SERVICES – WOMEN VETERANS
VETERANS CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS – VETS LICENSE PLATES

NEWS RELEASE

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JOHANNESSEN TO DEPART AS SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SACRAMENTO, CA. – November 18, 2003 - Secretary K. Maurice Johannessen, today, is announcing his departure from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA). An interim secretary will replace him until Governor Schwarzenegger selects a new secretary. The change takes place immediately.

Johannessen was sworn in as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs on December 17, 2002 by former Governor Gray Davis and became the first Secretary of the Department to receive Senate confirmation. During his brief eleven months as Secretary, the Department had restructured its management emphasizing productivity and accountability. “I am proud of what we have achieved in such a short time here at the Department,” commented the Secretary. “When I accepted this position I realized the challenges ahead but by setting goals and focusing on service to our veterans, I believe we have brought about a new sense of pride and accomplishment here at the CDVA,” added Johannessen.

Some events of note during Johannessen’s tenure took place within the Veterans Homes Division that operates three homes for disabled and retirement age veterans. Under his direction the Homes have undergone several changes to improve the care of their residents. The Veterans Home at Barstow saw the closure of a troubled Skilled Nursing Facility and a reorganization of its care mission for veterans. Meanwhile, the Veterans Home at Chula Vista expanded to its intended full capacity of 400 beds, and the Veterans Home at Yountville realized the completion

- more -

of several renovation projects while scheduling several more improvements with a price tag of over \$15 million.

Under Johannessen, the Department also undertook the largest veterans homes construction project ever proposed by a state to the Federal Veterans Affairs. The CDVA is currently planning and designing the construction of five new veterans homes across California. It is anticipated that with timely associated federal matching funds, all five homes are expected to be completed as early as 2008. The new homes will be in West Los Angeles, Lancaster, Saticoy, Redding, and Fresno.

“I am particularly proud of our new homes construction project,” commented Secretary Johannessen. While serving as State Senator, he was instrumental in working with legislators from both Houses to create a legislative package authorizing funding for their construction. As Senator he was also influential in crafting legislation for the first state veterans cemetery currently under construction in Shasta County.

Secretary Johannessen indicated he plans to continue to remain active in veteran related issues both here in Sacramento and from his home in Redding, Shasta County.

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